The

Historian

of Hancock County

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

SEPTEMBER 1994

FORT MAUREPAS RESTORATION

Gloria Moran of Hancock County will be guest speaker for our September meeting. Mrs. Moran, together with three others in period costume, will discuss plans to restore Fort Maurepas in Ocean Springs.

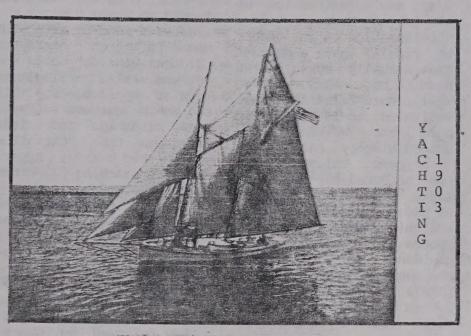
The luncheon meeting will be held at noon on Thursday September 22 at Lobrano House, Cue Street, Bay St. Louis. For reservations, at \$5, call 467-4090.

Since we need to give numbers to the caterers, be sure to reserve your spot.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The next four months 'will be the busiest in History. In addition to our regular meetings and functions, our election of officers, the Halloween program, moving of the Anderson Library to Bay St. Louis, we will also sponsor the Wooden Boat Show at Casino Magic Harbor on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of October.

We appreciate the efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of Transportation and Boh Bros. Construction Company for delaying repairs to the Bay the delta of the Mississ-Bridge in order to accom- ippi river. He called the modate the boats for our river the "Rio del Espiritu (Continued on page 2)



SCHOONER IN BAY ST. LOUIS

16th Century Explorations

"Mar Pequeno" or "Small Sound for many charts for two centuries, was given in 1519 by on Alonzo de when reporting exploration of the northern Gulf of Mexico.

Pineda noted the physiographical character of the shore-line, reported the positions of dunes, lowlying sandspits, bays, knolls, marshes and oysterbanks (ostiales) in the Mississippi Sound and on (Continued on page 2)

1855 HURRICANE TALE

The "California" under Sea," name of Mississippi Capt. Frost sailed from Milneberg Sat., Sept. 15, 1855. Docked briefly in Pass Christian at 9:30 p.m. then sailed just ahead of the Hurricane of Sep. 15 & 16, 1855, whose eye passed over Bay St. Louis.

> The "California" anchored * off Round Island. "CREOLE" anchored Henderson Point until 3 am when she broke her cables then fled into Portage until noon.

Upon leaving in winds, she soon discovered that she was in the eye of (Continued on page 2)

(President, from page 1) show. We have a very short time left to finish the schedule for volunteers to staff exhibits and ticket booths. Please call the office if you can give a couple of hours Saturday or Sunday on that weekend. Money earned will be used for new construction at the Lobrano House.

Celebration is in order. We finally have a scanner that actually works as we need it to. This machine will record files at a rate equivalent to 20 typists at hard labor. We can finally record history faster than it happens. Volunteer time can be used for pleasant tasks like identification of photos, oral interviews, searching for documents and photos from local or former residents and documenting the county. Laurels do not make a comfortable bed, so let us not try and rest on ours. We need you now more than ever.

CHARLES GRAY, President

THE BIGGEST

According to Guinness Book of Records, the longest seagoing ship ever built was the New Yorkbuilt Rochambeau (1867-72), formerly the Dunderberg, which measured 377 feet 4 inches.

The biblical length of Noah's Ark was 300 cubits, or 450 feet.

The heaviest wooden ship built was the Richelieu, 333 feet 8 inches long, of 8,534 tons, launched in Toulon, France in 1873.

(Mar Pequeno, from page 1) Santu." Some historians he actually meant think Mobile Bay.

Panfilo de Narvaez on June 17, 1527, left Spain with 600 men aboard five ; ships. Cabeza de Vaca was They left the south shore of Cuba in March, 1528, and landed at Tampa Bay.

Narvaez landed with 300 to march northward Rivers. through Florida while the vessels sailed parallel to join at Apalachee Bay, In two months Narvaez suffered many hardships and many men from starvation and in the swamps, apparently reaching Apalachicola River.

He lost contact with the ships and decided to head westward from apparently St. George Sound. Crude boats were made using the skins of their last horses and even using their leg skins as fresh water bags.

They followed the shoreline using such lagoons as Pensacola, Santa Rosa, etc. to Chandeleur Sound, In trying to enter the mouth of the Mississippi River or round the delta the strong currents drove them seaward and overturned the little craft, flimsy drowning Narvaez and most of the men.

Cabeza de Vaca found refuge on a small island five leagues and 2 leagues wide which he named Isla de Malhado, Some historians believe it was Horn Island.

The survivors lived among the Indians as slaves and even ate their comrades to survive for six years until presumably 1534. They

remained between the Pearl River and Mobile Bay during this period. The small tribes of Indians constantly warring on each other.

Reportedly Cabeza de Vaca led the survivors northtreasurer of the fleet, ward to apparently Mineral Shoals and then headed westward, crossing Mississippi River to reach the Arkansas and Canadian Eventually reached California.

(M. James Stevens, 1978)

(Hurricane, from page 1)

the hurricane and fled this time into the Jourdan River until Monday morning,

hours waves For three broke over the bluffs at Shieldsboro.

The main wharf broke up immediately after "Creole" had landed her passengers. Two local women were killed when the wharf collapsed. On Monday when the -"California" returned, John Martin's mule carts were used to take passengers out far enough into the water that the small boats from the "California" could receive them by lantern light,

Brown's and Pardat's wharves, protected by Deer Island, were the only two to survive between Bay St. Louis and Pascagoula,

(From Charles L. Sullivan, HURRICANES OF THE MISSISS-IPPI GULF COAST.)

WOODEN BOAT SHOW Casino Magic Marina October 8, 9 GULF COAST WOODEN BOAT RENDEZVOUS

CIVIL WAR DAYS - HANCOCK COUNTY AND VICINITY COMPILED AND EDITED BY CLYDE CUCULLU MEMBER - HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANOTHER GALLANT AFFAIR
Action Between the Gunboat Oregon and
U.S. Vessels Massachusetts & New London
The skill and intrepidity shown by the gallant Captain of
the Oregon in the action, so modestly told in the
following, cannot be too highly commended:

December 11, 1861
Eds. Pic.--At 12 o,clock M., landed at Barnes's Wharf; did not remain five minutes, as the enemy's vessels, the Massachusetts and New London, were advancing towards me; ran out to meet them, received their fire, returned it, and put about to Pass Christian, using my rifled cannon from the stern.

The enemy followed me for an hour, firing constantly. I had seen the smoke of two steamers before leaving Mississippi City, coming from the eastward, and concluded it proceeded from the Florida and Gray Cloud. I thought by drawing the enemy after me to the westward that it would enable the two steamers to run the blockade.

The manouver was partly successful, as one of the steamers ran into Biloxi--the other, supposed to be the Florida, put back and escaped.

The enemy, after firing at me for an hour, put about for the steamers approaching from the eastward. I also put about and returned with them, exchanging shot with the Massachusetts, which, when opposite Mississippi City, returned to Ship Island. The New London ran on to about three miles to the eastward of Mississippi City, and laid to, apparently watching us and waiting for the approaching steamer, which, as above stated, escaped.

I then returned to Mississippi City, landed at Barnes's and Harrison's wharves, and succeeded in taking on board the powder belonging to Knight, Rogers & Curtis; also, a large lot of foundry machinery, belonging to R. F. Harrison & Co., and several families with their effects, who were attached to the powder mill and foundry.

Left Mississippi City at 6 o'clock P.M., and arrived early this morning.

Very especially,
A. L. MYERS, Com. Oregon
Source: "Daily Picayune" N.O. - Dec. 13, 1861

We are proud to sponsor the Second Annual Gulf Coast Wooden Boat Rendezvous to be held the weekend of October 8 and 9 at Casino Magic's Marina on the Bay of St. Louis.

Aficionados from all over this country and abroad are responding to our invitation. While boat owners and vendors will be arriving on Friday, October 7, the crowds are not invited until Saturday.

If you have not signed up to help out, please call us at 467-4090 to volunteer.

Among the many tasks for our members are judges of marine art, costumes and boats; auctioneer; ticket taker; children's activities leader; "Heroes of the 1800s" actor; refreshments purveyor.

Whether you come to work or play, be sure to come.

Admission donation is a paltry one dollar.

Proceeds go toward our expansion program.

LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

Mon. 8 to 4 Thu, 8 to 4 Tue. 8 to 4 Fri, 2 to 4 Wed, 2 to 4 Sat. 8 to 4

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